

Why God is Right to Damn Wrong, Part 4 - Romans 1:26-28 – April 3rd, 2011

- This is part four of a series titled; "Why God is Right to Damn Wrong," in our study through Romans, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse.
- Before we pick it up where we left off, I think it's incumbent on me, by way of reminder, to let you know that today's teaching is for adults only.
- The reason for this is that the remainder of Romans chapter one deals with some mature subject matter as it relates to abhorrent sexual sin.

- At the beginning of this series, we painted a picture of a courtroom setting on the canvass of the text with Paul as the prosecuting attorney.
- In so doing, we have been able to better understand the "why" behind the "what" of the graphic detail with which Paul pens this Epistle.
- In what could be seen as his opening statement, Paul introduces his argument that man is guilty of crimes warranting the death penalty.

- This would explain why he begins the way he does. It's because, in this, the courtroom of eternity, God is not the one that's on trial, man is.
- Not only is man the one on trial, man is the one who found guilty, and condemned to death by the God, Who is the just judge of the universe.
- If God did not do this then not only would He be unjust, he could not be God. Charles Spurgeon in his commentary on Numbers 35, said this;

Charles Spurgeon - "God provided no sanctuary for real guilt, murder was not winked at, else had the land become both polluted and unsafe. Mercy to murderers would be cruelty to the innocent."

- It's with this understanding that I wish to now dive into our text where we find our tenth reason that God is both just and right to damn wrong.

10. They are given over to their shameful lusts (Verses 26-27)

- v26 Because of what they had done, God gave them over to shameful lusts, and even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural.
- v27 Likewise, men inflamed with lust, committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.
- This is the second of three times that Paul will write how God is giving them over. This time we read that they're given over to shameful lusts.

- Paul knows that the recipients of this letter there in Rome, are living in a culture that is steeped in the acceptable practice of homosexuality.
- History tells us this was a normal way of life in Rome. For 200 years, men who ruled the Roman Empire were open and flagrant homosexuals.
- There were even taxes that would have to be paid on the income from legalized homosexual prostitution, and same sex marriage was legal.

- Now, there's something here that we need to see before we go any further. The translation of women and men should read female and male.
- I realize that this may, at first glance, seem like a nebulous and meaningless detail however, upon a closer examination, it's forensic evidence.
- Here's why; in describing homosexuals and lesbians as merely male and female, you rightly disconnect the human sexuality from animal acts.

One commentator wrote how that; "Paul doesn't even use the normal words for man and woman here; he uses the words for male and female, using categories that describe sexuality outside of human terms, because the type of sexual sin he describes is outside of human dignity."

William Newell - "...they forget not only the holy relations of marriage, but even the burnings of ordinary lust, and plunge into nameless horrors of unnatural lust-bondage, all, males and females,... What a fearful account is here! A lost race plunging ever deeper, by their own desire! Left in shameful, horrid bondage, unashamed,—not only immoral, but unmoral, hideous."

F.B. Meyer - "The law of history, in virtue of which the forsaking of God is followed among men by a parallel growth of immorality, is not a purely natural order of things; the power of God is active in the execution of this law."

11. They are given over to a depraved mind (Verse 28)

- v28 God gave them over to a depraved mind to do what shouldn't be done, since they thought retaining the knowledge of God was of no worth.
- This is our third and last mention by Paul of God giving man over to his sin. This time we read that God gives them over to a depraved mind.
- Have you noticed that there's this progressive descent into, what's by any stretch of the imagination, unspeakable perversion and depravity?

- Remember, Paul is arguing the case of man's sin deserving the death penalty, before the judge of the universe in the courtroom of eternity.
- In order to achieve a guilty verdict, he must retrace every step, and even go back to the crime scene if need be, to find the smoking gun.
- I believe that Paul's brilliance in how he does this comes from the wisdom of the Holy Spirit inspiring him to write this using this method.

- Now, let's take a look at "how" Paul says "what" he says here; it's because they didn't retain the knowledge of God that God gives them over.
- In other words, they saw fit to "cast-out" the knowledge of God, which is why God in turn then saw fit to give them over to an outcast mind."
- Because God's on trial in the court of their own depraved minds, they reject and disapprove of God, thus they did not approve knowing God.

One commentator said it best when they wrote; "The human race has put God [on trial] for the purpose of approving Him should He meet the specifications which it laid down for a God who would be to its liking, and finding that He did not meet those specifications, it refused to approve Him as the God to be worshipped, or have Him in its knowledge."

- Back to the sin of homosexuality. Why is it sinful? Why does God condemn it? Why is God so intolerant of the alternative gay lifestyle?
- It's been said, that sin isn't bad because it's forbidden rather, sin is forbidden because it's bad. Homosexuality isn't only bad, it's deadly.
- Be that as it may, and suffice it to say, God is right to damn this sin because man disconnected himself from God and connected with animals.

- While I am keenly aware that this sin may not be committed amongst us, I want to close by looking at ourselves in this mirror of God's Word.
- What I mean by that is this; we are all too prone to quickly dismiss passages like this, and in so doing we become smug and self righteous.
- If that's your response to this study, I want to encourage you to revisit that area of secret sin in your life, and how it could be destroying you.

William Newell - It will not do to hold up your hands in self-righteous dismay, and say, These verses do not in any particular describe me. For God will show you and me that this is exactly the race as we were born into it, and out of which the only rescue is being *born again*. All these things pertain to lost, fallen man. Man is a tenant of the earth only by Divine grace, since the Deluge.